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*A History of England from the Earliest Times to the Death of Queen Victoria.* By BENJAMIN TERRY. (Chicago: Scott, Foresman & Co. 1901. Pp. xii, 1100.)

To produce another general history of England which shall really be helpful requires an accurate knowledge of recent monographic literature, good judgment in the selection and arrangement of the materials, and a fair degree of literary skill in telling the story. In its general plan and execution Professor Terry's book has decided merits. It is not in any large measure, as the reader is frankly warned in the outset, a work of original research; but in most cases the author has known how to choose safe guides. In treating the many difficult questions of the Saxon and the later medieval periods, for example, he has wisely adopted the conclusions of such writers as Ramsay, Maitland, Round, Vinogradoff and especially those of Bishop Stubbs. Indeed it is the advantage of his work that it summarizes to date the results of special investigation. Moreover the narrative is dignified, forceful and attractive. There is a very well balanced distribution of space in treating the various periods and their subdivisions; while in the thirty-five maps and the thirty-five genealogical tables the reader is provided with excellent helps. There is, however, a very serious defect in the working apparatus. With the exception of an occasional foot-note, bibliography is entirely neglected. One cannot help feeling that Professor Terry has here committed a grave mistake in judgment. The day of one book in the study of history is passed. Bibliography is no longer to be regarded as a mere appendage or luxury which may be disregarded for the purpose of economizing space. A due consideration of the materials, both the sources and the general authorities, is an essential element of good historical work, however general. In a text-book it is furthermore required as an aid to right method of study and teaching. In a field bristling with hard problems, such for example as that of early English institutional history, foot-notes or the equivalent are absolutely necessary to a sound treatment. Often a statement of the problem, with the different views of specialists, is the best that can be done. It is the author's safeguard against the perils of a too fluent or dogmatic narrative.

Part I., covering in 124 pages the period to the accession of Edward the Confessor in 1042, is entitled "Teutonic England. The Era of National Foundation." The first chapter presents a compact and readable account of the Roman occupation and of the successive populations inhabiting Britain before the Roman Conquest. The next six chapters are devoted to the settlement of the Germanic tribes, and to the evolution of the Anglo-Saxon state and society to the rise of Norman influence under Edward the Confessor. In the main, Professor Terry has acquitted himself well in this part of his task. According to the commendable plan which he announces in the outset, he has treated with more than usual fullness in a book of this character the development of institutions. The local organization, in particular, so vital a part of old English his-

tory, is given something like the consideration which it deserves. Still there is no connected analysis of the local or the central constitution. To learn all that the author has to say on the shire or the hundred, for example, one must piece together what is given in connection with the different reigns. It is the old difficulty of harmonizing or combining the chronological and the topical methods. In this case, apparently, there would have been a clear advantage in a sustained discussion, perhaps in a separate chapter, of the institutional development, even at the expense of some repetition. Then there is danger of sacrificing accuracy to brevity or surrendering it for the sake of unqualified statements. It is certainly rash to assume, for instance, that the frithgilds of London—the police organization described in the *Judicia Civitatis Lundoniae* of Athelstan's reign—were ever actually extended to the other parts of England; this assumption perhaps rests on the authority of Ramsay. Again, in connection with the hundred system of Alfred, we are told that "to give weight and dignity to the decisions of the hundred court, the great land owners of the district who possessed five hides of land or more, the *thanes*, were required to be present and to assist the court in rendering just decisions. They themselves, however, were exempt from the jurisdiction of the local court, and held in their own halls a coördinate court for their people." This is somewhat too summary a disposal of the vexed question of the origin of private jurisdictions. Positive proof of their existence before the reign of Cnut has not as yet been produced.

Part II., 1042–1297, contains a good account of the very difficult period of "Feudal England. The Era of National Organization" (pp. 125–316). The story of the Conquest is vigorously told; and the rise of Parliament, in its two Houses, carefully traced. The local organizations, however, are not adequately treated. A much fuller account, for example, of the rise and original character of trial by jury should have been given in order to convey the right impression of its real nature during the Norman period.

Part III., "National England. The Era of National Awakening," is divided into three "Books": the first dealing with the "Social Awakening," 1297–1485; the second, with the "Religious Reformation," 1485–1603; and the third, with the "Political Revolution," 1603–1689 (pp. 317–804). No attempt can here be made to present a detailed analysis. On several important points the author's statements appear to require some modification. In the light of the most recent research the peasant rising of 1381 should be characterized more emphatically as an economic and social revolt; and in some of its leading incidents, notably the King's part at Mile End and Smithfield, the conventional story derived from Froissart must now be abandoned. Again, since the appearance of Miss Schofield's monograph, it is scarcely accurate to call the Court of Star Chamber a "special committee of the king's council." The two chief justices were members of the court, but not of the council; and with this exception, even during the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII., the two bodies were practically identical

in composition and functions. On the other hand, it is clearly an error to say that the High Commission Court was first made permanent in 1583. The commission of that year, of which no copy exists, was probably not essentially different in this regard from those of 1576 and 1601, or from any of those issued by the first two Stuarts. In fact the Court was as "permanently" organized under the first commission of 1559 as it ever was. Even the authority by which the celebrated oath *ex officio* was administered was then granted. Perhaps the best part of Professor Terry's book is that devoted to the Puritan Revolution and the interregnum. Here he has based his discussion mainly on the documents comprised in Gardiner's convenient collection, and the results are gratifying. Cromwell's greatness of character and the striking modernness of his views are properly appreciated.

Part IV., devoted to "Imperial England. The Era of National Expansion," brings the narrative down to the close of the nineteenth century (pp. 805-1068). The long course of social, economic and political growth and reform is carefully traced. There is, however, a singular omission, considering the author's avowed purpose of accenting the history of institutions, and considering the space devoted to it in the Saxon period. With the exception of passing references to manors, courts and towns, local institutions are practically dropped after the Norman Conquest. The parish, for instance, save for a notice of the newly created parish councils, is entirely ignored. The same is true of the quarter sessions, the poor law union, the municipal borough, and the various local boards which have arisen in recent times. Furthermore, one searches in vain for an account of Cabinet government, the ministerial system, or the modern Houses of Parliament. The book is provided with a table of contents and a good index.

GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD.

*Owen Glyndwr and the Last Struggle for Welsh Independence.*

By ARTHUR GRANVILLE BRADLEY. [Heroes of the Nations Series.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1901. Pp. 357.)

THE title of the series to which Mr. Bradley's book belongs imposes upon him the necessity of a certain amount of glorification of his subject, and prevents criticism of that subject's character, at least to the extent of depriving it of the element of heroism. Except for this necessity, more might certainly have been said of the purposelessness of Glyndwr's rising, of its destructiveness, of its lack of any constructive elements. The revolt of which he was the leader, if not the creator, seems like a tidal wave; as obscure in its causes, as resistless in its devastating progress, as futile in its reflux. Yet the same thing would have been said of the work of Wallace and Bruce, if this had not been justified by an ultimate success, and the man is none the less a hero in spirit because he labored for a losing cause.